

Filed for intro on 02/01/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House Bill No.HJR0043  
By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Shelby County  
Chapter of The Links, Inc., on the celebration of  
its tenth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy organizations whose accomplishments bring pride and honor to the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, for eight years, the Shelby County Chapter of The Links, Inc., has presented outstanding young African American men to the Memphis/Shelby County community through the Beautillion Militaire; and

WHEREAS, the Shelby County Chapter of The Links, Inc., was organized February 16, 1983, led by Charlotte Brooks Polk, and known then as RARE (Radiating Attitudes of Resourceful Efforts), its main purpose was to provide a means of addressing the needs of the citizens in Memphis/Shelby County through coordinated efforts to enhance educational, cultural, and civic development; and

WHEREAS, the group's original membership consisted of twenty-one service oriented women who represented professional expertise in varied fields and shared the goals and ideals on which the organization was based; and

WHEREAS, in order to expand the realm of its services, it became necessary for RARE to affiliate with a national organization that shared the same goals. As a result, the group was inducted into The Links, Inc., as the Shelby County Chapter, on February 23, 1985; and

WHEREAS, through its implementation of such programs as Services to Youth, National Trends and Services, The Arts, and International Trends and Services, the Shelby County Chapter has become a viable instrument for progress in the Memphis Community; and

WHEREAS, as a part of its Services to Youth Program, the Chapter adopted Double Tree Elementary School and the Jessie Mahan Day Care Center. The organization has sponsored career awareness field trips, workshops on drug and alcohol abuse for youth groups and parents, and provided cultural activities for the students at Double Tree; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter has also participated in the Tennessee Department of Human Services' RAP Project, coordinated efforts with the Memphis Arts Council, served as an organizational board member for Women of Achievement, sponsored the Memphis Black Women's Political Forum, co-sponsored the Mexican Ballet Folklórico in conjunction with the Memphis in May Festival of 1985, and hosted and provided educational experiences for visitors with the Memphis Council of International Friends; and

WHEREAS, in April, 1987, the Chapter presented the first annual Beautillion Militaire for outstanding young men in Memphis high schools. On December 5, 1987, the Chapter sponsored a youth gallery tour for the Women of Courage Exhibit, a traveling exhibition of photographs depicting the achievements of fifty-five women. To enhance the tour, the Chapter sponsored the appearance of Dr. Margaret Alexander Walker, whose photograph and biography are included in the exhibit. In addition, Dr. Walker conducted a workshop for youth attending the tour, who were saluted at a public reception held by the Shelby County Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the 1988 projects of the Shelby County Chapter of The Links, Inc., centered around the national theme of "Enhancing the Legacy-Fulfilling the Dream." Focusing on the black family, the committee on International Trends and Services hosted an African family and facilitated an exchange between the family and citizens of Memphis; in addressing the problem

of substance abuse, the National Trends and Services to Youth facets sponsored a series of seminars and workshops on preventing and eliminating drug use in the community; and

WHEREAS, honors and accolades received by the Shelby County Chapter include: the Certificate of Merit for International Trends and Services presented at the Central Area Conference in Wichita, Kansas, in 1985, and a Second Place Plaque for International Trends and Services presented at the Area Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. During the summer of 1988, at the 26th National Assembly in Orlando, Florida, the Chapter received a First Place Service Award in International Trends and Services, Honorable Mention for exemplary Program in the Arts, and Distinguished Achievement Award for Chapter Exhibits. The Chapter received the 1989 Regional Conference Award for the umbrella project in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter's unremitting support to the Shelby County community led to its receiving the highest National Award in the facet - Services to Youth (Umbrella Project) July, 1990, at The Links, Inc., National Assembly in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the Shelby County Chapter won the Area Conference's first place award in International Trends and Services (Umbrella Project) presented at The Links., Inc., Central Area Conference held in Minneapolis. In 1992, the Chapter won the first place award for their project in International Trends and Services, presented at the National Assembly of The Links, Inc., in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter received commendations in 1993 for outstanding community service through its Project S.A.V.E. program. For initiating the program, the Chapter received the 1993 Central Area Conference's first place Umbrella Service Award in The Arts, along with a Merit Honor Award for Program Excellence from the Metropolitan Life Foundation; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is inspired by those exemplary community organizations whose efforts have resulted in untold benefit to others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That

we hereby honor the Shelby County Chapter of The Links, Inc., on its tenth anniversary and extend to its members our heartfelt thanks for their laudable efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the appropriate persons, with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.

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